

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-03

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-03 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /087 W

----- 131017

R 201314Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, SF, AO

SUBJ: OIL DISCOVERY IN NORTHERN ANGOLA

1. A SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN, WHO USED TO WORK IN ANGOLA AND WHO VISITED ANGOLA IN EARLY AUGUST, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT DURING LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, TEXACO MADE WHAT IT CONSIDERS AN IMPORTANT OIL STRIKE OFFSHORE OF NORTHERN ANGOLA IN CIVINITY OF SAN ANTONIO DO ZAIRE (6:07S - 12:18E). TEXACO'S OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING RIG, SEDCO 135, DRILLED THREE WELLS IN THIS AREA AND ALL THREE STRUCK GIANT DEPOSITS OF OIL OF ABOUT 500 FEET IN DEPTH. SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMAN LEARNED ABOUT THIS STRIKE FROM OLD FRIEND OF HIS WHO WORKS FOR TEXACO AND PARTICIPATED IN DRILLING OPERATIONS. FRIEND COMMENTED THAT A DEPOSIT OF 80 FEET OF OIL IS CONSIDERED LARGE STRIKE AND THAT ALL INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS STRIKE WILL RIVAL CABINDA STRIKE.

2. THE LATTER ALSO STATED THAT ALTHOUGH TEXACO IS COMMITTED BY CONTRACT WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO DRILL ONE MORE WELL, TEXACO MANAGEMENT HAS DECIDED TO INVOKE "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE OF THEIR
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CONTRACT AS RESULT OF UNSTABLE INTERNAL SITUATION AND PLANS TO

CLOSE DOWN OPERATIONS AS SOON AS CURRENT DRILLING IS COMPLETED.
SEDCO 135 OIL DRILLING RIG AND ALL MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES WILL BE
MOVED TO GABON. TEXACO HOPES TO BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR
DRILLING CONTRACT SOMETIME IN 1976.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
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Draft Date: 20 AUG 1975
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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